



PHOTO & CAPTION

Children Share the Joy of Reading



Photo: Kazakhstani Reading Association

Every spring children and adults throughout Kazakhstan are invited to celebrate a Reading Day in community libraries. Organized with USAID support by the Kazakhstan Reading Association, the event demonstrates that reading is fun and encourages readers of all ages to visit libraries. Each year, the association carefully selects topics and recommends books to center the Reading Days around such topics as citizenship, patriotism, and morale.

A recent Reading Day in the Taraz City Library invited children from 10 to 15 years of age for a discussion titled "What is a good citizen?" using the "Book of Words" by a famous Kazakh author Abai as a reading material. Parents and local school

With support from USAID, Reading Days open library doors to communities across Kazakhstan and teach children and adults alike to share the joy of reading.

teachers also joined the event. In small groups children read different excerpts of the book and discussed what describes a good citizen according to the author. After the discussion, the children read their essays on the topic to all gathered and tried to find answers to all their questions. "It was great, we debated, argued. I wish there were more activities like this," bidding goodbye to his new friends, told one of the young participants.

"Reading Days help us to bring books back into our children's lives," says teacher Nina Golopyatova, one of the Reading Day organizers from the town of Kokshetau. With USAID support, the association has sponsored 40 reading days in all oblast centers of Kazakhstan and some rural places, such as Lenger (South Kazakhstan), Aralsk (Kizyl Orda), and Arkalyk (Kostanai).